

POLICEMEN TRIED TO FORCE ROBBERY, PROSECUTOR SAYS

Had Two Tried for Conspiracy
After They Refused,
Lewis Charges.

On the motion of District Attorney Lewis of Kings County, the Court of Special Sessions, Justice French presiding, reversed the conviction of Solomon Goldman of No. 1349 East New York Avenue and Samuel Serota of No. 1671 Lincoln Avenue, a hero of the "Lost Battalion" and a wearer of the French War Cross, charged with conspiracy to rob Burke's men's furnishing store at Pitkin Avenue and Douglas Street.

District Attorney Lewis charged that Policeman John Heider and Charles Schneider of the Brownsville Precinct had suggested the crime to the two men and had urged them to commit it, and, failing to persuade them, had made the conspiracy charge falsely. He said he was "going further" in the matter of the policemen.

Before making the motion Mr. Lewis explained that soon after the men were arrested last December and were released on bail they came to him voluntarily and told him their side of the story. Serota frankly admitted having been sent to Elmira Reformatory as a lad, but said he had "gone straight" since.

The men said the policemen showed how easily a store window could be broken and the display goods pulled out and carried away in an automobile if the policemen nearest on post were "in on the game." They said they had both declared they were not willing to go into such an arrangement.

Assistant District Attorney Voss was assigned to investigate. He reported, said Mr. Lewis, that the story told by the policemen was unbelievable and that the policemen, examined separately, contradicted each other regarding the whole case.

"Going out of town," said Mr. Lewis, "I directed that the trial be held over until my return. Coming back I found that defendants' counsel had insisted on a trial in my absence, and you had convicted these men."

Justice French, in setting the men free said that the court had no knowledge of anything except the evidence put before it by the policemen, at the trial, which seemed to be in convincing form. In granting the motion, the court congratulated Mr. Lewis on his fairness in protesting the rights of the accused men as well as those of the community and congratulated Serota also on his war record, telling him it had wiped out any delinquency of his boyhood. He added:

"This court cannot tolerate the methods of policemen, who seek by making criminals, to create crime for purposes of their own advancement."

AIR RACE CHALLENGE SENT.

Formal Notice Sent to Paris by the Aero Club.

Formal notice that the United States offers intend to contest for the aerial supremacy of the world at the international air meet in France next September has been sent to the Aero Club of France by the Aero Club of America, which has issued its challenge to Paris. America will have three entries, the first quota allowed under the rules of the International Aeronautical Federation. One of these, designed by Orville Wright, is described as a "dark horse." Another is the entry from Texas, which is backed by R. J. Cox of Houston, who has offered \$100,000 to develop the best airplane for the coming contest.

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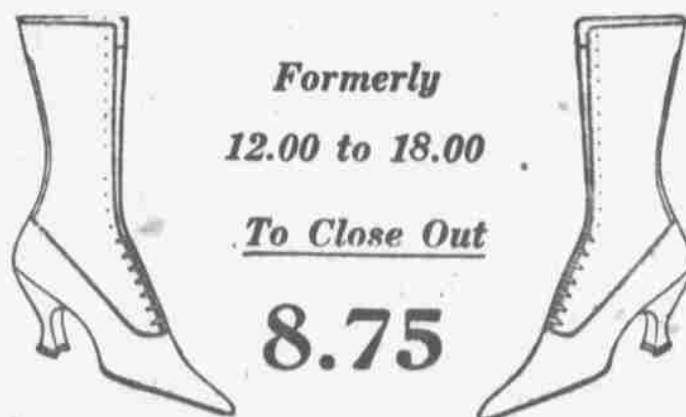
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